Industrial Production Index - Comparison of Averages for October (monthly average 1937 = 100) 433

	1951	1950	1949
Total Index of Production	180.3	145.4	122.8
Production Goods	230.7	178.6	151.6
Consumption Goods	138.8	117.3	98.3
Total Index of Productivity	105.7	91.8	82.1

Although agriculture and forestry showed some results production was lagging behind due to many soil-improvement measures which were neglected during the war. It remained behind the prewar level. Further investments are now being made in this field. [311] Considerable increase can be seen in the traffic capacity of the Federal Railways. [497] The extension of electrification, modernization of traffic installations, of rolling stock, and of railway stations are among the projects.

Tourist traffic is of special importance to achieving balance of payments. 457 Tourist traffic was one of the most important foreign currency earners before 1937. In 1948-49, 31.6 per cent of the number of overnight guests for 1937 was reached. This proportion rose to 70.4 per cent in 1949-50 and to 74.3 per cent in the winter season of 1950-51. However, the income from foreign tourist traffic lagged behind that of the prewar period. It amounted to 15.1 million dollars in 1950. With regard to its purchasing power, it reached one-fifth of the 1937 level. In this field also investments for modernization and extension of enterprises are continuing. The aim is to reach a reasonable balance between investments and incomes from foreign currencies. [529] Similarly motivated is the aim of opening areas of the country which might be very important for tourist traffic by building new roads and means of transport, such as cable cars and ski-lifts. In the investment program for 1950-52 net investments of 960 million schillings are provided for this sector alone.

The main vehicle for the balancing of payments is foreign trade.

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been made to guard against such an occurrence by the construction of mighty barricades. Whether man will be found to have succeeded in banning such elemental natural violence, the future will show.

Further up the Ill lies Schruns, the chief town of the Montafon, nestling picturesquely in an arm of the valley. Few places in Vorarlberg have been so fitted by climate and surroundings to become a health resort as this pretty market town.

Snakes on the Arlberg.

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It is indisputable that the people of the Montafon are very different from the rest of the population of Vorarlberg, as their customs, temperament and language plainly show. Montafon has withstood germanisation longer than any other part of Vorarlberg, and has thus preserved certain characteristics of its original Romanic population.

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Opposite Schruns lies Tschagguns, once much visited by pilgrims but nowadays more of a centre for winter-sport. Tschagguns has particularly good ski-ing facilities and is also the starting-point for trips to the Rätikon, the excursion being facilitated by a cable railway to Grabs, 4,800 feet above sea level. In the area accessible from Tschagguns, the exacting mountain climber will find the same satisfaction as the tourist who wants only to discover and meditate on the beauties of nature. The way to the Gauertal, which is widely known for its beautiful scenery, the end of the valley with the Lindau Hut rising from the last scrubby pines in the foreground, backed by the Three Towers in the distance, has been characterised by the most experienced and best-known Alpine climbers as unique and incomparable.

Bruneck Tower.

A few miles beyond Schruns, on the slopes of the mighty Kapelljoch, which is to be made accessible by a cable railway, in a narrow part of the Montafon Valley lies the district of the "Fratte", which divides the valley into Outer and Inner Montafon, or, as the inhabitants say, "Outer and Inner Fratte". The first hamlet of the Inner Fratte is St. Gallenkirch, whence the valley of the Suggadin river stretches away in the south to the mountain health-resort of Gargellen. Surrounded by the most bizarre of mountain scenery, the latter is, perhaps, artistically

361 considered, the most attractive place in the entire Province. What makes of it a
529 health-resort is the fact that of all places in the Province, it has the record
133 for sunshine, and that it has the same wonderful climate as the Swiss health-resort of Davos, only 18 kilometres distant as the crow flies.

That the Montafon, particularly the Inner Fratte, has lost its original character
361 of a mountain farming area is immediately evident when one comes to Parthenen,
133 last of the valley settlements. At first glance it is recognised as an industrial township.
377 Montafon's name of the "Valley of White Coal" is here justified, for the district in which Parthenen is situated is devoted to the production of electrical power. Cable-railways, elevators, narrow-gauge railways running at a height of over 5,000 and 6,000 feet, extensive plants and tunnels several kilometres in length show at first glance with what energy technical knowledge is striving to render the forces of nature of service to man. The source of these forces is the glaciers of the main range, the "Blue Silvretta", famous as a ski-resort in spring. It is easy to repeat without giving the matter further thought that the beauty and natural charm of the mountains are destroyed when their useful potentialities are exploited by mechanical means. It is far wiser and more just to go oneself (and how much simpler the many inventions of the much abused mechanical developments have made such a trip), to ascertain with one's own eyes that the two enormous artificial lakes at Vermunt and Obervermunt have lent a touch of beauty to the picture which was lacking in the monotonous valley which they have superseded. For the mountain lover there still remain the combs and peaks of the monarch of the Vorarlberg Alps, the 9892 foot high Piz Buin, which he can approach with untroubled heart and a determination to dare its perils, without any risk that his ideal picture will be found marred by the spirit of a profit-seeking age.

529 THE LOFTY CASTLE OF THE
526 WHITE ART. It is not so very many years ago that winter was regarded as a visitation of God. More especially was this the attitude of the mountain folk whose means of livelihood were drastically curtailed during the cold months by the many feet of snow. This attitude only underwent a change when human ingenuity succeeded in making use of two strips of wood bound to the feet with one end bent upwards, which brought with them greater freedom of movement even over deep snow. This happened in Austria towards the end of the last century. One of the areas in which this now widespread

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Old Montafon National Costume (Woman).

"White Art" was developed and cultivated is the Arlberg, which takes its name from the pass which was well-known as a connecting-link between Tyrol and Vorarlberg even in mediaeval times.

The name Arlberg is a magic word which arouses echoes in the heart of every skier, of whom there are hundreds of thousands today. There is scarcely another part of Europe which satisfies so many demands of modern ski-ing as this mountain-world on the borders of Tyrol and Vorarlberg. It gave its name to a well-known ski-ing style, and the name of Hannes Schneider is inseparably connected with the conception of ski-ing. You will quickly get an inkling of the Arlberg district's meaning for the sporting side of modern ski-ing if, at the end of winter, you glance down the lists of winners of the great international races; again and again you find Arlberg names at the head of them. The importance of the Arlberg from a ski-ing as well as from a tourist point of view will be understood and never forgotten by anyone who has ever spent a week there at the height of the season.

[496] The line of approach to this eldorado of the "White Art" is the Arlberg railway, which ascends from the Vorarlberg side of Bludenz in daring curves, overcoming the natural barriers of the narrow Klostertal by many a viaduct and tunnel to reach Langen-on-the-Arlberg, nearly 4000 feet above sea level.

On arriving in Langen one is at once confronted by a scene of activity. Motor-sleighs and innumerable horse-drawn sleighs, vast piles of luggage and a crowd of shouting and excitedly gesticulating people—a gathering of many nations—fill the square in front of the station. Within a few minutes this confusion resolves itself into an orderly line of vehicles which sets out over the Arlbergstrasse and Flexenstrasse with a rattling and tinkling of bells towards Stuben, Zürs and Lech,

[491] well-known winter-sport resorts. The drive over the Flexenstrasse, especially in winter, is an unforgettable experience. No one can fail to be impressed by the manner in which this important highroad has been built in defiance of natural obstacles, with a vast expenditure of time and money, but with a due regard for the beauties of nature.

The less attractive the Arlberg scenery around Zürs is in summer, the more appeal the treeless white slopes have in winter when they are softly blanketted

in deep snow sown with glittering crystals. When a blue sky rises in an arch above, it is enough to make every heart beat more quickly. One feels an irresistible urge to set forth on skis, to plough a shadowy blue track in the virgin white, to hear the crackling and whispering of the myriad shining snow crystals, to abandon one's body and spirit to a purity and freedom which is only to be found in the alpine heights in wintertime. And the experience of the whirlwind descent, the snow flying up like clouds of star-dust! Here there is enjoyment for everyone, even though their numbers run into thousands. There is room enough for each one to get away from the others and to make a track of his own. The great hotels are ready to furnish proof that city dwellers who cling to their standard of comfort are also catered for. A first class ski-school provides individual and successful instruction in the White Art, and the ski-lifts enable those setting out on a ski-tour to reach attractive areas without effort.

Lech-on-the-Arlberg is even more beautiful scenically than Zürs, although it does not lie so high and is less fashionable. Perhaps just for this reason it is more intimate and cosy. Lech attracts many guests in summer as well, although it is chiefly a winter-sport resort, furnished with all the necessary modern equipment.

Before we say good bye to the Arlberg, let us take a glance at one of its wild and romantic beauties—the avalanches. Many readers may be surprised to hear avalanches numbered among the beauties of nature, but their surprise betrays that they have never experienced the grandiose spectacle of this wintery force on the Arlberg. When on fine days towards the end of March and in April the modestly blooming violet begins to oust the snow in the valleys, high up amidst the peaks, still in full winter costume, an ominous rolling and a muttering begin which strike a chill into one's very bones. Lying in the sun in a safe corner, one can watch this drama of nature for hours without wearying. Again and again one looks up as one catches the rumbling sound, and in a few seconds gigantic masses of snow like a great white river throwing up showers of spray cascade down over black rocks into the ravine below. Long

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after the avalanche has subsided to the view, the accompanying thunderous roar continues, itself gradually subsiding into a silence which leaves the ear keyed up for the next demonstration.

The Walser villages are interesting, in character easily distinguishable from other places in Vorarlberg. Every farm is built at least a stone's throw away from the next, according to Walser custom, and isolated houses are to be found as high up as the last slopes which it is at all possible to reach by vehicle.

The picture of the Great Walser Valley reminds the observer that it is not always man who rules nature, but that sometimes it is nature who forces man to acknowledge her imperious rule. The impression left by a visit to the Small Walser Valley is a much friendlier one. This district, which economically is an enclave not only within Vorarlberg but also within Austria, has an individual note due to the highly developed tourist trade which is everywhere in evidence. The natural traffic routes of the Small Walser Valley connect it with the adjacent Allgäu, but it has no direct connections with Vorarlberg or Tyrol. This valley, which offers many opportunities for winter sport, but is also attractive in summer on account of its beautiful scenery, has built up a remarkable tourist connection. It can boast of a very large number of comfortable inns and hotels. You will find them all along the only road, which links up the market towns of Riezlern, Hirschegg and Mittelberg, and on the slopes above. Obviously such developments have an influence on the way of life of the native population. But it is surprising to learn that in the Lesser Walser Valley even simple peasant's farms are furnished with many of the comforts of civilisation. Most of them have central heating, running hot and cold water, mechanical washers and modern kitchen conveniences run by electricity.

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MODERN NOMADS. The Upper Bregenzerwald, that is, the country above the Bregenzer Ache from the Bezau onwards, is chiefly mountainous in character, declining to hill country in the Lower Bregenzerwald. Populous settlements are scattered through the vales which branch off from the wide valley; solitary, 'sun-

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The Wolfsgraben.

by a mysterious roaring from the depths of the mountain. Soon one finds oneself within this mountain, remote from the sun even though it be at its zenith, trapped in a damp gorge, surrounded by high walls but sure of one's way on the narrow path which has been carved out of the stone. The water foams angrily through narrow passes, tearing at the rocks, wearing away the stones, swirling and growling through the hollows it has worn in the walls, leaping, tossing, screaming, as though a terrible rebellion had broken out in the usually placid element.

133 529 The next lateral valley is watered by the Gastein Ache, the healing and magical waters of which are well-known. The two Gasteins, Hof- and Badgastein, are world famous. The reputation of these health resorts has been connected for centuries with the names of illustrious visitors. These two spas which formerly slept in winter now attract crowds of visitors through their ski-lifts. They seek health in the neighbouring mountains, which vary from giants which climb to 654 glacial heights to more gentle hills. Nearby lies the Sonnblick with a meteorogical station lying at a height of 10,000 feet above sea level. A further lateral valley 133 serpentines in the bold curves of a car road up the gigantic bulk of the Grossglockner, providing enchanting glimpses of rushing mountain streams glittering far below and of white, foaming waterfalls which sway in the wind like the beards of ancients. Over all this, a vast sea of cloud.

This giant world of the alps rules the emotions of man with almost painful majesty, commanding his ear, absorbing his glances, and forcing him to speak almost in whispers. One can imagine this vast mass of rock with its thin covering of arid grasses groaning under the indignity which the splendid road has imposed upon it. One can almost feel the mountain rising and falling as it breathes deeply, seeking to hurl the crawling, twisting car into the depths which make one giddy as one looks down.

In the far distance light and shade change as in a Rembrandt picture. Amidst this stupendous landscape, one experiences a feeling of liberation and lives through a whole gamut of emotions, passing from sheer amazement to a sense of com-

133 *frontiers of the Province proving an insurmountable barrier. In 1918 South Serbia laid claim to Carinthian territory and foreign troops soon invaded a country which had collapsed after four years of war. But the Carinthians stood firm in loyalty to the Motherland, and the Province emerged intact from the defensive battles of the year 1919 and the plebiscite of 1920. The inflexible patriotism of its people had triumphed. History repeated itself after the second World War in which Austria was involved. The old saying "Carinthia free and undivided" will be bequeathed by the present sorely-tried generation to its sons, as an inheritance which is part of the very existence of the Province.*

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WHAT THE PEOPLE ARE LIKE

Anthropologically there are two main races clearly traceable in Carinthia: a blond, tall, long-skulled type and a dark, tall, long-faced but short-skulled type. Both types are about equally prevalent. The eastern type of man, smaller, with a broader skull and darker skin, is less frequently met with. Here and there in many places there are isolated traces of a Mongol race, revealed by the characteristically wrinkled eyelid and the position of the eye. It is typical of Carinthia that some of these traits indicates a national division. They result from centuries of constant racial intermingling, being found quite as frequently among the German-speaking as among the Slovene inhabitants of the Province. It seems that the original Celtic peasant inhabitants gradually mixed with Germanic, Slovenic and other elements which penetrated the Province as the result of colonisation, wars and the expeditions of merchant caravans.

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Living in this area marked out by its natural boundaries, these peoples, aided by the effects of common conditions of life and progressive intermarriage, gradually developed into that Austrian-

lies the picturesque Weissensee, the only alpine lake which can boast of a bridge. The Gailberg offers a way over this mountain range connecting the towns of Kötschach and Oberdrauburg. A second road leads over the Kreuzberg between Hermagor in the Gail Valley and Greifenburg in the Drau Valley. Where the two broad river valleys meet lies Villach, on the extensive mountain plateau of the Dobratsch which has been given the name of "Carinthian Rigi" on account of the wonderful view from it. The acrothermal baths and the valuable metals won from the Bleiberger Erzberge are some compensation for the devastation caused by landslides in the dawn of history on the south side of the Dobratsch. The wierd scenery must be in part the reason why a famous colony of painters has settled in these parts, in the village of Nötsch. Among them are such well-known artists as Franz Wiegele, Arnold Clemenschitsch, Kolig senior and Herbert Boeckl, as well as Anton Mahringer and Raimund Kalcher.

Only south of the Gail Valley and of the lower reaches of the Drau is the wild character of the frontier mountains fully apparent. The wall of the Carinthian-Julian Alps stretches from Tyrol to the Gailitz Gorge through which passes the railway-line to Italy. In the Monte Coglians it attains a height of 9000 feet. It has a single negotiable pass—a military road even in Roman times—at Plöcken. The crests of the ranges tower upwards in pyramids or sheer walls of rock in a bewildering variety of forms, differing according to their height and the type of stone. Dense beech woods alternate with open fields, the meadows of the Gartnerkofel reflect the majestic violet blossoms of the Wulfenia. The Wolayersee reflects an impressive view of the surrounding country.

alpine type which is nowadays implied by the use of the word "Carinthian", creating a feeling of natural common weal, without entirely destroying specific indications of individual differences. An extravagant capacity for enthusiasm, a light-hearted joi de vivre and love of good food, an impulse towards what is great and profound, are ascribed to the Germanic element. Rough and primitive strength, loyalty, a coarse sense of humour and self-confidence are believed to originate in the Celtic admixture. From this last the people are considered to derive a certain uncomprehending tendency to reject all that is new or unusual, the much criticised tendency to leave everything as it has always been. Whether this be true or not, all these qualities do, in fact, mark out the Carinthian generally, with little distinction as to his mother tongue. They equalise out in the souls of the people, stormy contradictions blending in the calm of a purposeful attitude towards life. Light usually triumphs over the darkness of the depths.

NATIONAL CUSTOMS.

The colourful customs of the inhabitants derive from age-old sources. In Central and Lower Carinthia, they date from the Celtic part of the prehistoric migrating hordes and the days before the birth of Christ. Heathen processions around the mountains in spring which led to the heights of former Celtic places of worship, became in Christian times Easter pilgrimages, such as the strange "Vierbergelaufen" in the Zollfeld area. The customs and legends of Upper Carinthia date back to the times of Teutonic invasions. Prayers for good harvest weather and for fertility embodied in the old custom of blessing the fields, the solstice fires and the marriage customs as well as those of the "Rauhnächte" have undergone many a change since they were first

Gail Valley Costumes.

building on the inheritance of the moraines of the ice age. The mountain winds carried seeds from afar. Thus there came into being a mixed landscape of thickly covered, isolated summits, ranges of hills, meadows, ploughed fields and stretches of water. 133

In this enclave lies the largest lake, the Wörthersee, the centre of summer holiday life, a reservoir of warmth covering an area of some 20 square kilometres. On its shores are many country houses, colonies of bathing huts and popular holiday resorts, among which the most important are the spas of Velden and Pörtschach. The Wörthersee is also a first class centre for sport of all kinds. On its beaches are crowds of bathers, swimming and playing games of water-ball; beyond them rowing boats explore the bays and inlets, while further out again, white sails swell in the wind and speed boats flash by, many towing a surf-riding board on which a bronzed figure is precariously balanced. In late winter, the wide surface may become a skating rink of vast dimensions. On the shores of the other lakes, large and small, life is less intense, but more idyllic. The Ossiachersee dreams pensively in the shadow of 133 529 133

a soft flour paste with the edges folded over, and filled with "Topfen" (curds), herbs, poppy seeds or dried pears. For festive occasions there are the "Leinöl-krapfen" (a sort of doughnut) and the "Reindling", a cake filled with cinnamon, sultanas or currants. The chief dish is "Sterz", made of buckwheat or maize. Normally meat is only eaten smoked except on feast days. Peasants engaged on exhausting work may eat bacon at tea time or it may be eaten with potatoes, cabbage or pickled turnips at the mid-day meal. For drinks there are cider and Schnaps, home-made spirits from the fruit growing on the farm.

Although the mountainous nature of Carinthia does not afford its inhabitants a very luxurious existence—in comparison to that of the peasants in the plains it may almost be called poverty-stricken—it provides in its variety rich food for the spirit. The special temperament and mentality of the people find joyous expression in the magnificent songs of Carinthia, which have been spread, through Koschat, far beyond the native frontiers. Sung in jolly company by three, four or five voices, women's and men's blend harmoniously with that of the "over-singer" who remains an octave higher. It makes no difference whether the language of the song is German or whether, as in places near the southern frontier, it is sung in the Carinthian-Slovenian dialect. Sometimes, in fact, the two are mingled, with amusing effect. In the field of religious melodies there are many shepherd's songs which express in direct countryman's fashion the story of the finding of the infant Jesus in language which is sometimes moving, sometimes amusing. The most revered song, however, is and always will be, for Carinthians, the "Kärntner Heimatlied", written by J. Ritter von Gallenstein in 1817. Its verses describe the beauty of the Motherland Province in moving terms of deep affection.

Maria Wörth.

a shopping place for the needs of the surrounding countryside. Numerous castles and fortress-ruins are all that remain to remind of its proud past. 361

Villach has always been an excellent centre of communications. Belonging to Bamberg until the middle of the 18th century, it early received valuable privileges which together with a highly developed trade and the rich mineral yield of the mountains made it a very prosperous centre of culture. It likes to be called the "Town of Paracelsus", who lived there with his father for fourteen years. Its particular attraction is provided by the mountain which looks down into the streets and highroads from all sides. People say jokingly that this is the only town in the world where it is possible to hunt the chamois in the streets. This is, of course, not strictly accurate, for the forests of the Dobratsch mountain merely touch its outskirts. As a health resort it would be hard to beat, for mountains and lakes present the most varied attractions, while the warm springs of the medicinal baths offer a cure for many painful illnesses. A faint flavour of life in Italy, whose frontiers are not far [529]

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by J. C. Fischhofer, and the library for its treasures of old manuscripts.

Space must be found for a word about the hill country between the Raab and the Mur, the Land of the Seven Valleys which, separated from one another by forested heights, all guide their dark streams past quiet rural villages and mills hidden behind alder groves, flowing in the same direction towards the Mur. The latter, sweeping eastwards, forms a natural boundary for Styria. In the forests the edible chestnut is common, here and there casting its shade over a tumulus, which bears witness to long-forgotten settlements. Summer warms the air with southern strength, autumn bringing clear skies and the finest views from the footpaths which wind through vineyards and woods to white chapels.

529 The Gleichenberge and the Stradner Kogel are of volcanic origin. The curative properties of their springs are widely known. Bad Gleichenberg enables numerous visitors to combine the healing qualities of forest solitude, with up-to-date medical equipment.

245 The vine, which is cultivated in East Styria with varying results north of Hartberg, steadily improves in quality towards the south, reaching its zenith in the Klöcher Gebirge and around Halbenrain where the fine vintages are stored in the wine-cellars.

361 Mureck is a town of ancient Styrian civic culture, but its crown, the castle of [342] Obermureck, lies on the other side of the Mur in what is today foreign territory, as does Oberradkersburg, the ducal castle which since 1918 has been separated from the most southern town in Austria, the ever-loyal Radkersburg. None of the sufferings of a frontier town has been spared it. The tombstones in the churchyard of the gothic parish church are witness to the origins of its inhabitants. The venerable relics of Styrian civic life of olden times which are preserved in the tower of the Rathaus below the solemn frescoes of Fritz Silberbauer will encourage future generations to emulate the loyalty and watchfulness of their ancestors.

[498] THE STYRIAN ENNSTAL. Where the train leaves the narrow valley of the Palten to enter the broader valley of the Enns, it is greeted by a noisy network of sidings, signals and rails in the big station of Selzthal. The time-table describes it as a junction where many passengers change trains at an important crossing of north-south and west-east routes. Its name is better known in and outside the Province than many another which formerly meant fame and surviving tradition in the Enns Valley. A hundred years ago Selzthal was not much more than the name of a district, of a forest valley in which the charcoal-burners worked for the

133 and raftsmen, leaving Altenmarkt behind it, the Enns, today the favourite torrent for adventurous souls in collapsible boats, flows across the frontier into Upper Austria.

[496] From Selzthal the railway runs upstream along the left bank of the Enns to Radstadt and Bischofshofen in the province of Salzburg. All along its course northwards stands a chain of the characteristic peaks of the Kalkalpen in exciting divergency—Hochmölbing, Totes Gebirge, Hochtausing, Grimming, Stoderzinken and the lower flanks of the massive Dachstein. Different again, less wild, but as unique in their own way, are the forested subalpine hills which run off here to the left. Behind them lies the wilderness of the Niedere Tauern with their many lakes.

361 [438] Liezen at the northern edge of the valley, mention of which occurs in documents of 900 years ago, was the most important transport junction before the railway came into being. Trade and barter brought prosperity from the salt carriers and the traders who arrived by way of the Pyhrnstrasse. The growth of the neighbouring town of Selzthal has brought losses to the former roadside settlement, but the persevering inhabitants have found other means of livelihood and today its flourishing industries have raised Liezen to the status of a town.

[529] Wörschach, a pleasant and peaceful spot at the entrance to a gorge, attracts from afar holiday visitors and health seekers year after year to the healing springs of its radio-active sulphur baths. Mountaineers and ski-ers climb from here into the mountain world of Hochmölbing, Warscheneck and Hochtausing, the climber often finding summer conditions on the verdant heights of the Schneehitzalm and the Bärenfeuchten between the numerous herdsmen's huts. The mere pedestrian crosses the Taschnermoos within view of the towering Grimming and goes on to the Putterersee by way of Aigen.

[346] From Wörschach the road leads westwards to Niederhofen, whose little gothic church deserves the attention of all lovers of art—and of Styria. This building contains curious tempera paintings from about the year 1500 and three carved altars from the 17th century. According to Ferdinand Tremel, the Styrian historian, we have in it one of the oldest churches of the Enns Valley. In Stainach, to which the junction of the Salzkammergut electric railway and the Bischofshofen—Selzthal line have brought new life and trade, we catch sight of the rocky nest of "in der Pürgg" above. The great gothic church there, noteworthy for its antiquity as well as for its unusually artistic architecture, well earns its local name of "Steyrisches Kripperl" (Styrian Crib). Inns and farmhouses surround it, completely filling the gap in the rocky cliffs.

On the other side of the valley lies Irdning, an impressive market-town whose busy life confers many advantages on the wide mountainous hinterland.

From Liezen onwards one is impressed again and again by a mountain which rises above lower wooded heights like a vast, glittering castle of rock—the Grimming.

quarter above the Wienerwald. Waidhofen-on-the-Ybbs, Lunz, Scheibbs and the stretch from Mariazell to St. Pölten are far-famed for their rustic beauty. Further to the north of the Styrian boundary lie Türnitz and Lilienfeld, Hainfeld and Gutenstein near the contrasting shapes of the Mittelgebirge.

Along the road to Greifenstein, on the Danube, through Neulinghach and Altenmarkt, descending to the Hohe Wand, Schneeberg and the Rax, runs the boundary of the "quarter below the Wienerwald". Encircling Vienna in a mighty arch from Klosterneuburg to Heiligenkreuz and Baden, it descends to the plains along a line of thermal springs. On one side of the Südbahn grows a heavy wine; on the other is a chain of industrial centres—Traiskirchen, Sollenau, Leobersdorf, Bernsdorf, Wiener Neustadt, Neunkirchen, Ternitz and Wimpassing. The factory chimneys do not end until the Semmering district is reached at Gloggnitz and Payerbach. The Piestental leads to the "Bucklige Welt" of Edlitz, Kirchschlag and Aspang, while to the east of Vienna the approaches to Hungary lie in the flat triangle formed by Schwechat, Ebenfurth and Bruck-on-the-Leitha.

ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER.

Restless flows the Danube through Lower Austrian territory, until it is reluctantly compelled to submit to control and regulation. At Struden-gau it still gives birth to leaping rapids and circling eddies, twists itself at Ybbs to a dangerous bend, narrows to the legend-haunted valley of the Wachau and constantly forces the current to move now towards this bank, now towards the other, until it at last subsides into a broad and placid stream below Tulln. With

Baden, where the healing waters flow close to the roadside, proved a great attraction for you. To drink them you only needed to go down a few steps. On all the bridges over the Schwechat, you could smell the sulphur from the springs which were discovered by the Romans. The modern medicinal baths were in their time the temple of a goddess. In the piping times of peace you found there many people who had come from far off countries. The rich glow of the tulip beds in the Kurpark is a sight which you should not miss.

Kornhäusel, an architect of late classicistic style, built for Baden a town hall with Greek temple columns and a flat roof adorned by stone statues. His work, specimens of which can be found throughout the town, is of modest but genuine beauty. You keep finding pillars and rows of columns, Doric and Ionic capitals and caryatids, which, although of unequal value, lend a distinctive air to the town through their variety of form and the attempt to reproduce the beauties of antiquity.

Mozart's "Ave verum" and Beethoven's "Missa solemnis" are particularly treasured by Baden. Grillparzer, Schubert and further southwards, Raimund have all enriched this countryside with the breath of their art.

At the foot of the forests are extensive vineyards. Light, stony soil and a favourable situation give the grape a choice quality which has been further improved by careful tending. Gumpoldskirchner wine was taken around the world on one occasion on a Zeppelin flight. It kept its high quality throughout.

Hainburg, Wienertor.

Güssing.

Burgenland's volcano—Pauliberg is its name—is of course no longer active. But it provides the Province with indispensable basalt for road building.

The Burgenland volcanoes—there are more than one of them—although non-eruptive, have the hot springs which still flow along the thermal line. That line of healing springs which begins in Vienna and continues through Baden and Vöslau, unites in Burgenland with the sulphur baths of Leithaprodersdorf, northwest of Eisenstadt. It carries on to the unpretencious health centre of Sauerbrunn at the foot of the Rosaliengebirge and feeds the mineral springs of Kobersdorf at the foot of the Pauliberg. Parallel to it runs a second line from the radioactive baths in Edelstal to the mineral springs of Deutschkreutz.

Kobersdorf.

Far off in the south of the Burgenland the basalt cone of Güssing is still recognisable as a part of the volcanic chain. The narrow strip of land where three countries meet and where the castle ruins of Neuhaus look down from the mountain, is in its isolation one of the most lovely spots of Austria. Here the Raab traverses the Province. Its name has survived from the days of the Romans, who may have adopted it from the Celts or the Illyrians. The town of the same name situated where the river joins the Danube is called Győr in Hungarian, preserving the memory of the Avars who, when the barbarian flood had subsided, remained as rulers of Pannonia, and thus in the Burgenland. "Győr" means "ring", the Avars designating as "rings" the earthworks behind which they defied a superior force, while their mounted hordes ravaged the countryside.

Bernstein.

In Southern Burgenland there are no surviving traces of the Avars, although the names of many places bear witness to their not always willing followers, Slavonic tribes who, as farmers, were forced to contribute to the support of the Avar nomads. Welten,

133 Austrian alpine foothills, to which it by its character belongs. Sandwiched in between, on the upper Pinka, one finds a living witness to Burgenland history in the Magyar enclave of Oberwart.

175 The Magyars came to Pannonia about 896 A.D. In 907 A.D. they destroyed
563 the Bavarian armies near Pressburg, thus putting an end to the Frankish-Bavarian Pannonian Mark. For half a century hordes of Hungarian horsemen overran Europe, spreading out even to France and Italy. The Battle of Lechfeld in 955 A.D. put an end to this, and the Magyars then tried to secure themselves a permanent home in the Danube Basin. Their "Westwall" was the impenetrable forests of southern Burgenland, and, further northwards, the swamps of Rabnitz. The valleys in the forest belt were defended by barricades and troops.

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Oberwart.

In one of these "Warte" or outposts, which is today the Hungarian-speaking village of Oberwart, the Magyar garrison maintained itself for 1000 years. Here the Magyar origin of the population is still evident in their speech and picturesque dress.

133 There are traces of almost every period of Burgenland history in the district of Oberwart. The most valuable heritage is that left by the extinct volcanoes at
● 529 Tatzmannsdorf, a healing centre for heart complaints and feminine ailments—an Austrian version of Franzensbad.

Geologists will find much to interest them in these parts. The brown-coal
135 mines of Tauchen, the antimony and sulphur-stone deposits at Schlaining, the iron ore which was mined even in Celtic-Illyrian times at Eisenzicken

"If I always wished to be among my equals, I should be forced to take my walks in the Kapuzinergruft, among the deceased Hapsburgs."

The Prater is a vast stretch of untouched open country which lies on the right bank of the Danube. Just as the mountains behind the city reach right up to its suburbs, so does the wooded plain of the Prater with its open fields and pools. One can wander for hours in this natural park, the most extensive recreational area for the Viennese. However many tens of thousands come here, the Prater has room for them all as they spread over the broad expanses of meadows and woods which offer shade, rest and repose after the din of the city.

Right through the middle runs the Hauptallee, with the romantic Lusthaus at one end, beyond which the road leads on to the Freudenau, Vienna's racecourse. At all seasons of the year it attracts visitors. But in May this avenue forms an unbroken ribbon of flowering chestnut trees. When the petals fall from the blossoming candelabra, the grass, the footpaths and the roadway are all covered with white and red snow. Later on, in autumn, children eagerly collect the shiny brown chestnuts lying among the dead leaves.

On one side of the Hauptallee lies the little lake near the Konstantinhügel and further on the Heustadel Water, on both of which are rowing boats for hire. On the other side are the Trabrennplatz (Trotting Race Course), the great Sport Stadium, three historically famous coffee houses and the "Wurstelprater" (Fun City). Here at the foot of the Big Wheel, holiday crowds find a centre of light-hearted happiness, where the cares and sorrows of a harsh everyday world may for a space be forgotten. The "Wurstel" (Punch) still delights children as he did in the days of Adalbert Stifter. Fascinated, they sit before the small stage where their imaginations are ever again successfully led astray into a world of illusion and fantasy with very primitive aids—chiefly adroitness of the fingers and a native gift of wit. Ancient wisdom finds its expression here, a wisdom which recognises failings with a smile. Born of

Viennese Girl, 1948.

317 occupation, thus allowing completely destitute Austria to procure a certain quantity of foodstuffs through compensation deals with foreign countries.

[529] Salt, the white treasure of the mountains, serves humanity in a modified form in another manner. Wherever salt is recovered, there have grown up famous spas such as Bad Ischl, Solbad Hall and Bad Aussee, where the same substance helps to heal various disorders.

529

One of the few good results of the First World War was that it taught people to appreciate the value of a healthy body. Sport became a popular demand of the masses, which the municipal administration did its best to satisfy. The establishment of the Stadium and many sports grounds and youth playgrounds, of the Amalia Baths and many summer swimming pools, the extension of existing municipal peoples' baths and the construction of 23 children's free open air bathing pools all served to popularise sport among the masses of the people and improved the health of the population of Vienna.

362

The Tenants' Protection Law, born of war-time necessity, put a brake on private building enterprise after the First World War as it does today. As general economic conditions made it unthinkable that this law should be abolished and the old system restored whereby there was no limit put on the rents which landlords could demand, though at the same time the shocking housing conditions in Vienna called imperatively for sweeping and effective measures, the Vienna Municipality saw itself obliged firstly to raise funds to complete the housing schemes which had been dropped during the war. Secondly, it had to adopt a positive building policy of its own. On September 21st, 1923, its housing programme was adopted, the Vienna City Council deciding that it should be financed from municipal funds. Over a period of five years, 25,000 homes were to be built for the public. This programme was not only completed, but was followed by further great building projects, so that by the year 1934, about 65,000 homes had been built by the municipality, either in blocks of flats or in groups of small houses. This gigantic scheme was covered in part by the steeply and progressively scaled house-building tax.

The Vienna Municipality considered its building activities as a welfare measure to which it was compelled by existing social and economic conditions. It therefore treated the whole cost of construction as irrecoverable building investment which must be regarded as capital expenditure. Rents were fixed to cover the costs of maintenance and anticipated repairs and replacements, thus keeping them within the range of the Tenants' Protection Law rents.

House planning was developed by the Vienna Municipality in accordance with entirely new principles of hygiene and cultural progress. The building regulations in force in Vienna since the year 1883 permitted actual buildings to cover eighty-five per cent of the available surface, but the Vienna municipality only allowed 30 to

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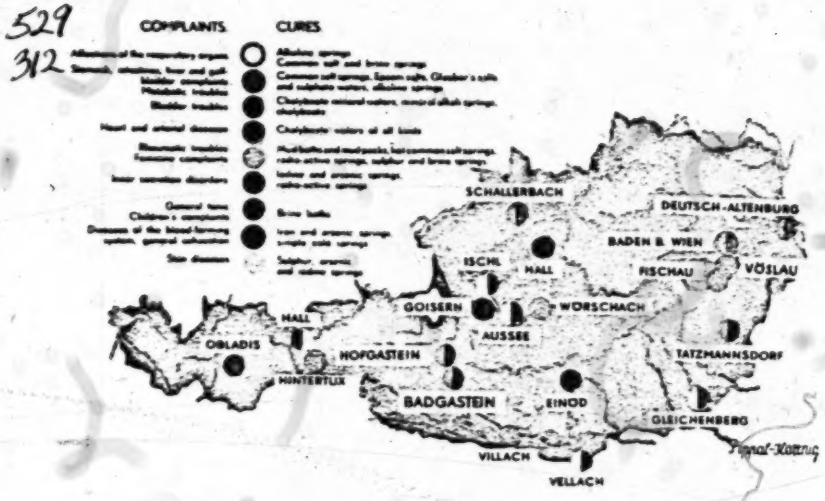

Medicinal Baths in Austria.

HEALTH RESORTS AND SPAS.

529

Nature in Austria attracts not only through variety and charm, but also through a healthy climate which is bracing for mind and body. Situated between the oceanic West and the continental East, the graduated heights, the mountain ranges, lakes, rivers and forests provide many variations of climate, capable of satisfying a wide range of demands for a mild or bracing resort, and a variety of choice which enables every individual to select just what he wishes for himself.

There are over 200 health resorts in Austria, 110 of them being medicinal spas. Some of them are world-famous, attracting and retaining an international public. Others are quiet and remote, lying in gently rolling hill country, and others again call one to the invigorating heights of the mountains.

Along the long-known thermal line which skirts the eastern edge of the Alps and runs from the Danube through Lower Austria and the Burgenland down to

529 Styria, is a long succession of spas. Another group benefits by the mountain riches of salts and volcanic springs. There is a succession of healing health resorts extending from Bad Hall in Upper Austria across the Salzkammergut and the magnificent valley of the Gasteiner Ache to Solbad Hall-in-Tyrol.

[312] Chalybeate waters, radio-active springs, mineral-saline waters, sulphur springs containing iodine or bromide, mineral waters of the most varying kinds are all used in a carefully tested therapy for drinking or bathing cures, inhalations or medicinal packs.

Whatever could be done by man to add to the gifts of generous nature has been done in Austria. The health resorts and baths themselves are as diverse and manifold as the healing springs. Baden-bei-Wien lies in a specially favoured corner of the Wienerwald, with its sulphur springs which were valued by the Romans, amidst very lovely scenery. Nestling among forested hills and extensive vineyards, the town with its well-kept avenues, its park, its promenade, theatre and charmingly built villas is like a great hospitable garden. Baden has been a favourite resort for statesmen, men of science and artists from time immemorial when they have sought peace and recuperation to enable them to face new tasks.

Badgastein, situated amidst the impressive panorama of the Salzburg Tauern, has become Austria's most famous medicinal spa. Mountain sun, absence of fog and the purity of the air all help to increase the effect of the radioactive thermal waters. This place, with its varied profusion of pump rooms, fine houses and modern hotel residences towers above and around the rushing, foaming, cascading Gasteiner Ache like an enormous amphitheatre, a picture of elegance and comfort combined with nature in her most overpowering and impressive mood. The shady and well-kept paths hold memorials to many famous personages, to rulers, statesmen, diplomats and artists. An international public from all over the world gathers here in the hope of postponing old age and recovering youth.

One thing is common to all Austrian spas—to Tatzmannsdorf, Schallerbach, Vöslau, Gleichenberg, Warmbad Villach, Ausseer and

529 Ischl. That is the atmosphere and feeling of comfort. There is a healthy optimism in the air of each, a natural and effervescent joy in living which knows no artifice.

SPORT.

526 The idea of sport in a modern sense—Athens in 1896, Coubertin, memories of Olympia—has fallen on fruitful soil in Austria, as her sportsmen have proved in the prizes which they have carried off at various international competitions. There is no need to concern ourselves here with gold and silver medals, nor with records, distances covered, split seconds and points. Let us leave aside champions and their tabulated achievements, the "wonder-teams" of former years, world-famous ski-ers and the "strong men" of Vienna. Here let us consider sport in its natural and most attractive shape, as a means of gaining strength and of recuperation for all, to whom it offers the joy in living which comes from a healthy body.

Expressions frequently heard such as the daily grind, the dull jogtrot of life are not applicable to Austria and its inhabitants in a literal sense. Whoever sets a wandering foot on the ground anywhere between the Bodensee and Neusiedlersee can be sure of a constantly changing view, of a world twisting and turning up hill and down dale in mountain and valley. Anyone wanting to go from one town to another, or even from village to village feels his senses quicken in the freedom of the lovely countryside. The air, fresh with the dew on the grass or heavy with the scent of flowers, so bathes the skin, the lungs, that it seems as though burdens had been cast away.

Living and working in this atmosphere throughout the centuries has given the men broad shoulders and sinewy figures; the women are high-waisted, with narrow hips, graceful necks and shoulders and slender, well-shaped feet. The Austrian has a passion for "wandern"—for hiking—deeply engrained within him. His mouth demands to breathe in the air of the great mountains, his foot the soft carpet of mossy slopes and his eye continual change, now drinking in the green of near-by forests, now reaching out to the distant lines which the silent horizon has etched against the bright sunshine. The driving force behind all sport in Austria is the need to be with and to experience nature, the delight in the light of day, the need to grasp the earth as